

The invention claimed is:

1. A partition for open building space, comprising:
 - a frame including at least one substantially horizontal surface;
 - a cover member being configured to enclose at least a portion of said frame, said cover member including attachment members configured to connect said cover member to said frame; and
 - 5 a seal attached to said cover member, and including a resilient flap which engages said substantially horizontal surface of said frame to inhibit the passage of acoustical energy through said partition.
2. The partition as set forth in claim 1, wherein:
 - said cover member includes a substantially horizontal flange extending between side edges of said cover member; and
 - 5 said seal includes a U-shaped groove, said U-shaped groove configured to accept said substantially horizontal flange of said cover member to frictionally connect said seal to said cover member.
3. The partition as set forth in claim 2, wherein:
 - said seal includes at least one finger extending into said U-shaped groove, said at least one finger configured to frictionally engage said horizontal flange of said cover member.
4. The partition as set forth in claim 1, wherein:
 - said at least one substantially horizontal surface comprises a first substantially horizontal surface and a second substantially horizontal surface, said seal engaging said first substantially horizontal surface;
 - 5 and further including a second seal attached to said cover member, said second seal including a resilient flap configured to engage said second substantially horizontal surface of said frame.

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Part A15.

5. The partition as set forth in claim 1, wherein:
said frame further includes a substantially horizontal cross-member having a plurality of windows; and
said attachment members are inserted into said windows for attaching said cover member to said frame.

6. The partition as set forth in claim 5, wherein:
said at least one substantially horizontal surface is located on a lower portion of said cross-member.

7. The partition as set forth in claim 5, wherein:
said cover member includes a substantially vertical flange having a pair of angled slots; and
said attachment members comprise spring clips, each spring clip including a central plate having a pair of side flanges inserted into one of said pair of slots to connect said attachment member to said cover member.

8. The partition as set forth in claim 7, wherein:
each of said windows of said frame includes a top edge and a bottom edge;
at least one of said spring clips further includes a tab;
said at least one of said spring clips is connected to said cross-member by inserting said at least one of said spring clips into one of said windows, wherein said tab of said at least one of said spring clips locks against an inside surface of said cross-member above said top edge of said window to connect said at least one of said spring clips to said cross-member.

Part A29.

The partition as set forth in claim 8, wherein:
said at least one of said spring clips includes a connecting flange that extends above an upper edge of said cover member, wherein a tool can be inserted a space located between said upper edge of said cover member and an outwardly protruding member of said frame located above said cover member so as to engage said connecting flange of said at least one of said

as claimed
spring clips and depress said connecting flange so as to disengage said tab of said at least one of said spring clips from said inside surface of said cross-member to disengage said at least one of said spring clips from its associated window.

10. The partition as set forth in claim 7, wherein:

said spring clips have only one orientation wherein said pair of side flanges can fit into said pair of slots.

11. The partition as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said cover member is comprised of steel.

12. The partition as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said cover member is comprised of wood.

13. The partition as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said cover member includes a tack board.

14. A cover panel for a partition having a frame with a horizontal surface, said cover panel comprising:

a cover member being configured to enclose at least a portion of the frame, said cover member including attachment members configured to connect said cover member to the frame;

5 and

a seal attached to said cover member, and including a resilient flap configured to engage the horizontal surface of the frame when said cover member is connected to the frame to inhibit the passage of acoustical energy through said partition.

15. The cover panel as set forth in claim 14, wherein:

said cover member includes a substantially horizontal flange extending between side edges of said cover member; and

5 said seal includes a U-shaped groove, said U-shaped groove configured to accept said substantially horizontal flange of said cover member to frictionally connect said seal to said cover member.

Art A316. The cover panel as set forth in claim 14, wherein:

said seal includes at least one finger extending into said U-shaped groove, said at least one finger configured to frictionally engage said horizontal flange of said cover member.

17. The cover panel as set forth in claim 14, further including:

a second seal attached to said cover member, said second seal including a resilient flap configured to engage a second surface of the frame.

18. The cover panel as set forth in claim 14, wherein:

said attachment members are configured to be inserted into windows on a substantially horizontal cross-member of the frame for attaching said cover member to the frame.

19. The cover panel as set forth in claim 18, wherein:

said cover member includes a substantially vertical flange having a pair of angled slots; and

said attachment members comprise spring clips, each spring clip including a central

5 plate having a pair of side flanges inserted into one of said pair of slots to connect said attachment member to said cover member.

20. The cover panel as set forth in claim 19, wherein:

each of said spring clips further includes a tab;

said spring clip is configured to be connected to said cross-member by inserting said spring clip into one of the windows of the frame, wherein said tab of said spring clip is 5 configured to lock against an inside surface of the cross-member above a top edge of the window to connect said spring clip to the cross-member.

- Art 21.* 21. The cover panel as set forth in claim 20, wherein:
said spring clips include a connecting flange that extends above an upper edge of said
cover member, wherein a tool can be inserted a space located between said upper edge of said
cover member and an outwardly protruding member of the frame located above said cover
member so as to engage said connecting flange of said spring clip and depress said connecting
flange so as to disengage said tab of said attachment members from the inside surface of the
cross-member to disengage said spring clip from its associated window.
22. The cover panel as set forth in claim 19, wherein:
said spring clips have only one orientation wherein said pair of side flanges can fit into
said pair of slots.
23. The cover panel as set forth in claim 14, wherein:
said cover member is comprised of steel.
24. The cover panel as set forth in claim 14, wherein:
said cover member is comprised of wood.
25. The cover panel as set forth in claim 14, wherein:
said cover member includes a tack board.
26. A method of removing a cover member from a frame, said cover member including
attachment members connecting said cover member to said frame, said attachment members
including a detent for connecting a portion of said attachment members to said frame, said
frame including a flange located adjacent an edge of said cover member when said cover
member is connected to said frame, the method comprising:
providing a tool having a notch;
inserting said tool between said flange and said edge of said cover member;
rotating said tool such that said edge of said cover member is located within said notch
of said tool;

depressing said detent with said tool; and
disconnecting said attachment members from said frame.

27. The method of removing a cover member from a frame of claim 26, wherein:
said frame includes at least one substantially horizontal surface; and
said cover member includes a seal, said seal having a resilient flap which engages said
substantially horizontal surface of said frame when said cover member is connected to said
frame to provide an acoustic barrier for said partition.
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28. The method of removing a cover member from a frame of claim 27, wherein:
said cover member includes a substantially horizontal flange extending between side
edges of said cover member; and
said seal includes a U-shaped groove, said U-shaped groove configured to accept said
substantially horizontal flange of said cover member to frictionally connect said seal to said
cover member.
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29. The method of removing a cover member from a frame of claim 28, wherein:
said seal includes at least one finger extending into said U-shaped groove, said at least
one finger is configured to frictionally engage said horizontal flange of said cover member.

30. The method of removing a cover member from a frame of claim 27, wherein:
said at least one substantially horizontal surface comprises a first substantially
horizontal surface and a second substantially horizontal surface, said seal engaging said first
substantially horizontal surface;
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and further including a second seal attached to said cover member, said second seal
including a resilient flap configured to engage said second substantially horizontal surface of
said frame.

31. The method of removing a cover member from a frame of claim 26, wherein:
said frame further includes a substantially horizontal cross-member having a plurality of windows, said portion of said attachment members being located within said windows when said cover member is connected to said frame; and
- 5 said step of disconnecting said attachment members from said frame includes the step of removing said attachment members from said windows of said frame.
32. The method of removing a cover member from a frame of claim 31, wherein:
said at least one substantially horizontal surface is located on a lower portion of said cross-member.
33. The method of removing a cover member from a frame of claim 31, wherein:
said cover member includes a substantially vertical flange having a pair of angled slots;
and
said attachment members comprise spring clips, each spring clip including a central plate having a pair of side flanges located within one of said pair of slots to connect said attachment member to said cover member.
- 5 34. The method of removing a cover member from a frame of claim 31, wherein:
each of said windows of said frame includes a top edge and a bottom edge;
at least one of said spring clips further includes a tab;
said step of removing said attachment members from said windows of said frame includes unlocking said tab of said at least one of said spring clips from an inside surface of said cross-member above said top edge of said window.
- 5 35. The method of removing a cover member from a frame of claim 34, wherein:
said detent comprises a connecting flange on said one of said spring clips that extends above an upper edge of said cover member; and
said step of removing said attachment members from said windows of said frame includes disengaging said tab of said at least one of said spring clips from said inside surface of

said cross-member during said step of depressing said detent to disengage said at least one of
said spring clips from its associated window.

36. The method of removing a cover member from a frame of claim 33, wherein:
said spring clips have only one orientation wherein said pair of side flanges can fit into
said pair of slots.

